Of the 48 credits needed for graduation, the following core classes are required. If you pursue a Master's Project, 30 credits are part of the core requirements. If you pursue a Master's Thesis, 33 credits are part of the core curriculum. The Concentration selected by each student requires an additional 9 credits.

RP620    Quantitative Methods in Planning  (3 credits)
RP625     Geographic Information Systems  (3 credits)
RP630     Public Participation  (3 credits)
RP635     Research Issues  (3 credits)
RP651     Planning History and Theory  (3 credits)
RP656     Judicial Planning Law  (3 credits)
RP675     Regional Planning Studio   (6 credits)
Either:
RP 698A  Master’s Project   (6 credits) or
RP 699     Master’s Thesis   (9 credits) or
3 Course Option: Elective Studios + Elective Seminars

Course Waivers

Students are allowed to waive required courses if they can demonstrate equivalency in terms of previous course work or experience. This process requires the completion of a course waiver form, available from the graduate program secretary. This form must be approved first by the faculty member whose course is to be waived, then by the program director. In general, if 80% or more of the course material has been covered, a waiver is granted. If 50-80% of the course material has been taken then instructor may negotiate an appropriate instructional arrangement (e.g. audit, independent study). If less than 50% of the material has been covered, then the waiver is not granted. It should be noted that a course waiver does not reduce the total number of credits required for a degree but rather affords the student more flexibility in pursuing areas of interest.
**Regional Planning Studio**

An important part of your planning education is participation in a regional planning studio. In the studio, students divide into teams of 3-5 and work on a real project with an actual client. The objective is to provide a setting in which you can learn the professional skills required in the planning process. Through the studio, you will gain knowledge and expertise in the processes of planning, including how to comprehend a planning problem, quantify and analyze its dimensions, formulate planning alternatives, and organize a work plan and planning process that leads to the implementation of solutions. You will also gain experience in working with the client and the public, and in the presentation of work in oral, written and graphic form.

The studio format has the following features:

1. A 6-credit, 14-week studio (fall semester of the second year).
2. Instruction by faculty and outside professionals on key topics needed to carry out studio projects, including work planning, public presentations and report preparation.
3. Community-based projects and clients, including the signing of a contract between client and studio group that sets out a ‘scope of services’.
4. In the first half of the semester, studio tasks involve data collection, analysis, and development of plan alternatives. In the second half, tasks involve primarily plan development, public participation, and plan implementation.